



**Written testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee on H.B. 6659 An Act
Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making
Appropriations Therefore**

February 23, 2023

Co-chairs Senator Osten and Representative Walker, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Brittany Coleman and I am from Bridgeport, Connecticut.

I'm writing to oppose the governor's budget proposal reflected in H.B. 6659, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025 and Making Appropriations Therefore, because it:

- Fails to address long-standing injustice. The budget, as currently proposed, perpetuates the growing racial funding gap. Connecticut spends \$788 million more educating white students than students of color.
- Maintains separate and unequal funding streams. Instead of creating one Connecticut education funding system, this bill funds students in drastically different ways depending on where they live and what type of school they go to. Public schools should be funded fairly based on need. This includes traditional, magnet, charter, and vocational-technical schools.
- Forces districts to lose funding. Districts will lose more than \$1 billion when federal COVID relief runs out. The budget does not make up for that loss, and students everywhere will suffer.

I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

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